

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of recovering from basic input/output system (BIOS) corruption in a multi-node computer with  
5 first and second nodes, a first firmware unit in the first node, and a second firmware unit in the second node, the method comprising:

in response to initiation of a boot sequence for the multi-node computer, automatically checking a BIOS image  
10 in the first firmware unit in the first node of the multi-node computer for corruption; and

in response to detecting corruption of the BIOS image in the first firmware unit, automatically recovering from the corruption of the BIOS image by  
15 copying a good BIOS image from the second firmware unit in the second node to the first firmware unit in the first node.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein:

20 the multi-node computer comprises multiple nodes, with each node containing a copy of the BIOS image; and the method further comprises:

determining if any of the nodes contain a good copy of the BIOS image; and

25 in response to determining that at least one node contains the good copy of the BIOS image, automatically copying the good copy of the BIOS image to any nodes that contain a corrupted copy of the BIOS image.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein:

the first node includes a first central processing unit (CPU) hub, the second node includes a second CPU hub, and the multi-node computer further comprises a multi-port switch for internodal communications;

the method further comprises configuring the multi-port switch to provide a communication path between the first CPU hub and the second CPU hub; and

the operation of automatically recovering from the corruption of the BIOS image comprises copying the good BIOS image from the second node to the first node via the multi-port switch.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein:

the first firmware unit comprises a central processing unit (CPU) firmware unit;

the multi-node computer also includes an input/output (I/O) firmware unit; and

the method further comprises:

in response to detecting corruption of the BIOS images in the CPU firmware unit, automatically copying a good BIOS image from the I/O firmware unit to the CPU firmware unit.

5. The method of Claim 4, wherein:

the first node includes a first CPU hub, the second node includes a second CPU hub, and the multi-node computer further comprises a multi-port switch for

5 internodal communications communicatively interposed between the first CPU hub and the I/O firmware unit; and

the operation of automatically recovering from the corruption of the BIOS image comprises obtaining the good BIOS image from the I/O firmware unit via the multi-port  
10 switch.

6. The method of Claim 4, wherein:

the multi-node computer comprises first and second nodes; and

15 the method further comprises automatically using a good BIOS image in an I/O firmware unit in the second node to replace first and second bad BIOS images in the CPU firmware units in the first and second nodes, respectively.

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7. The method of Claim 1, wherein:

the multi-node computer comprises multiple nodes;  
each node comprises at least one copy of the BIOS  
image in a central processing unit (CPU) firmware unit  
5 and at least one additional copy of the BIOS image in an  
input/output (I/O) firmware unit;

each node further comprises a set of one or more  
CPUs;

each node further comprises a CPU hub interposed  
10 between the CPU firmware unit and the set of one or more  
CPUs;

each node further comprises a multi-port switch for  
internodal communication and an I/O hub interposed in  
series between the CPU hub and the I/O firmware unit; and

15 the method further comprises:

checking the CPU firmware units and the I/O firmware  
units to determine if any of the nodes contain a good  
copy of the BIOS image; and

in response to determining that at least one of the  
20 nodes contains the good copy of the BIOS image,  
automatically copying the good copy of the BIOS image to  
all nodes that contain corrupted copies of the BIOS  
image.

25 8. The method of Claim 1, further comprising  
logging recovery information for future reference.

9. A multi-node computer system (MCS) with automatic basic input/output system (BIOS) recovery, the MCS comprising:

5 a first node that includes a first set of one or more central processing units (CPUs);

a second node communicatively connected to the first node, wherein the second node includes a second set of one or more CPUs;

10 a first firmware unit in the first node, communicatively connected to the first set of one or more CPUs;

BIOS code in the first firmware unit;

15 a second firmware unit in the second node that also contains the BIOS code, the second firmware unit communicatively connected to the second set of one or more CPUs; and

20 BIOS recovery logic, in at least one of the first and second firmware units, that automatically recovers from BIOS corruption by causing a copy of the BIOS code from the second firmware unit in the second node to be copied to the first firmware unit the first node, in response to detecting corruption in the BIOS code in the first node.

10. The multi-node computer system of Claim 9,  
wherein:

the MCS comprises multiple nodes, with each node  
containing a copy of the BIOS code;

5 the BIOS recovery logic determines if any of the  
nodes contain a good copy of the BIOS code; and

in response to determining that at least one node  
contains the good copy of the BIOS code, the BIOS  
recovery logic automatically causes the good copy of the  
10 BIOS code to be copied to any nodes that contain a  
corrupted copy of the BIOS code.

11. The multi-node computer system of Claim 9,  
further comprising:

15 a first CPU hub in the first node communicatively  
interposed between the first firmware unit and the first  
set of one or more CPUs;

a second CPU hub in the second node communicatively  
interposed between the second firmware unit and the  
20 second set of one or more CPUs;

a multi-port switch for internodal communications  
communicatively connected to the first CPU hub and the  
second CPU hub; and wherein:

the BIOS recovery logic configures the multi-port  
25 switch to provide a communication path between the first  
CPU hub and the second CPU hub; and

the BIOS recovery logic causes copies the good BIOS  
code from the second node to the first node via the  
multi-port switch.

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12. The multi-node computer system of Claim 9,  
wherein:

the first and second firmware units comprise first  
and second central processing unit (CPU) firmware units;

5 the MCS further comprises an input/output (I/O)  
firmware unit communicatively connected to at least one  
of the first and second CPU firmware units;

the I/O firmware unit also contains the BIOS code;  
and

10 in response to detecting corruption of the BIOS code  
in the first CPU firmware unit, the BIOS recovery logic  
automatically causes the BIOS code to be copied from the  
I/O firmware unit to the first CPU firmware unit.

15 13. The multi-node computer system of Claim 12,  
wherein:

the first node comprises a first CPU hub  
communicatively connected to the first CPU firmware unit;

the second node comprises a second CPU hub  
20 communicatively connected to the second CPU firmware  
unit;

the MCS further comprises a multi-port switch for  
internodal communications communicatively interposed  
between the first CPU hub and the I/O firmware unit; and

25 the BIOS recovery logic causes the BIOS code to be  
copied from the I/O firmware unit via the multi-port  
switch.

14. The multi-node computer system of Claim 13,  
wherein:

the MCS further comprises an I/O hub communicatively  
interposed between the multi-port switch and the I/O

5 firmware unit; and

the BIOS recovery logic causes the BIOS code to be  
copies from the I/O firmware unit via the I/O hub.

15. The multi-node computer system of Claim 9,  
wherein:

the MCS comprises multiple nodes;

each node comprises a set of one or more CPUs;

5 each node further comprises a CPU firmware unit  
communicatively connected to the set of one or more CPUs;

each node further comprises a CPU hub interposed  
between the CPU firmware unit and the set of one or more  
CPUs;

10 each node further comprises an input/output (I/O)  
firmware unit communicatively connected to the CPU hub;

each node further comprises at least one copy of the  
BIOS code the CPU firmware unit and at least one copy of  
the BIOS code in the I/O firmware unit;

15 each node further comprises a multi-port switch for  
internodal communication and an I/O hub interposed in  
series between the CPU hub and the I/O firmware unit;

the BIOS recovery logic checks the CPU firmware  
units and the I/O firmware units to determine if any of  
20 the nodes contain a good copy of the BIOS code; and

in response to determining that at least one of the  
nodes contains the good copy of the BIOS code, the BIOS  
recovery logic automatically causes the good copy of the  
BIOS code to be copied to all nodes that contain  
25 corrupted copies of the BIOS code.

16. A program product that provides automatic basic input/output system (BIOS) recovery in a multi-node computer system (MCS) with first and second nodes, a first firmware unit in the first node, and a second  
5 firmware unit in the second node, the program product comprising:

a computer-usable medium encoding recovery instructions which, when executed, perform operations comprising:

10 in response to initiation of a boot sequence for the MCS, automatically checking a BIOS image in the first firmware unit in the first node of the MCS for corruption; and

in response to detecting corruption of the BIOS  
15 image in the first firmware unit, automatically recovering from the corruption of the BIOS image by causing a good BIOS image from the second firmware unit in the second node to be copied to the first firmware unit in the first node.

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17. The program product of Claim 16, wherein:  
the MCS comprises multiple nodes, with each node containing a copy of the BIOS image; and

the operations performed by the recovery  
25 instructions further comprise:

determining if any of the nodes contain a good copy of the BIOS image; and

in response to determining that at least one node contains the good copy of the BIOS image, automatically  
30 copying the good copy of the BIOS image to any nodes that contain a corrupted copy of the BIOS image.

18. The program product of Claim 16, wherein:  
the first node includes a first central processing  
unit (CPU) hub, the second node includes a second CPU  
5 hub, and the MCS further comprises a multi-port switch  
for internodal communications;

the operations performed by the recovery  
instructions further comprise configuring the multi-port  
switch to provide a communication path between the first  
10 CPU hub and the second CPU hub; and

the operation of automatically recovering from the  
corruption of the BIOS image comprises copying the good  
BIOS image from the second node to the first node via the  
multi-port switch.

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19. The program product of Claim 16, wherein:  
the first firmware unit comprises a central  
processing unit (CPU) firmware unit;

the MCS further comprises an input/output (I/O)  
20 firmware unit; and

the operations performed by the recovery  
instructions further comprise:

in response to detecting corruption of the BIOS  
image in the CPU firmware unit, automatically causing a  
25 good BIOS image from the I/O firmware unit to be copied  
to the CPU firmware unit.

20. The program product of Claim 16, wherein the  
operations performed by the recovery instructions further  
30 comprise logging recovery information for future  
reference.